In the Claims

1. (Original) A method for deriving an optimized rule set for a fuzzy logic system, said method comprising the steps of:

generating a pool of random rules having a fitness function and storing said random rules;

evolving said random rules using a genetic algorithm to improve the fitness function of said rules in said random rule set until the overall fitness function of said rules plateaus, thereby generating an optimized rule; and

storing said optimized rule in an optimized rule storage area, said rules stored in said optimized rule storage area comprising said optimized rule set.

2. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said generating step includes the steps of:

checking said optimized rule storage area to determine if it contains any optimized rules; and

using any optimized rules contained in said optimized rule storage area when generating said pool of random rules.

3. (Original) A method is set forth in claim 1, wherein said evolving step comprises evolving the features of said random rules.

4. (Original) A method is set forth in claim 1, wherein said evolving step comprises evolving the qualifiers of said random rules.

5. (Original) A method is set forth in claim 1, wherein said evolving step comprises evolving the operators of said random rules.

6. (Original) A method is set forth in claim 1, wherein said evolving step comprises evolving the features, cases, qualifiers, and operators of said random rules.

7. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said generating, evolving, and storing steps are repeated until a predetermined number of optimized rules are stored as said optimized rule set.

8. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 7, wherein said repeating of said steps occurs on a real-time basis.

9. (Original) At method for deriving an optimized rule set for a fuzzy logic system for use in stock market analysis, said method comprising the steps of:

generating a pool of random rules having a fitness function and storing said random rule;

evolving said random rules using a genetic algorithm to improve the fitness function of said rules in said random rule set until the overall fitness function of said rules plateaus, thereby generating an optimized rule;

storing said optimized rule in an optimized rule storage area, said rules stored in said optimized rule storage area comprising said optimized rule set;

applying a stock market data set to said optimized rule set; and

outputting a stock market analysis result based on the application of said stock

market data set to said optimized rule set.

10. (Original) A method is set forth in claim 9, wherein said evolving step

comprises evolving the features of said random rules.

11. (Original) A method is set forth in claim 9, wherein said evolving step

comprises evolving the qualifiers of said random rules.

12. (Original) A method is set forth in claim 9, wherein said evolving step

comprises evolving the operators of said random rules.

13. (Original) A method is set forth in claim 9, wherein said evolving step

comprises evolving the features, cases, qualifiers, and operators of said random rules.

14. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 9, wherein said

generating, evolving, and storing steps are repeated until a predetermined number of

optimized rules are stored as said optimized rule set.

15. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 14, wherein said repeating of said

steps occurs on a real-time basis.

16. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 9, wherein said stock market data set comprises data regarding a particular stock choice.

17. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 9, wherein said stock market data set comprises data regarding a particular stock market.

18. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 9, wherein said stock market data set comprises data regarding comprising a particular segment of stocks.

19. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 9, wherein said stock market data set comprises data regarding comprising mutual funds.

20. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 9, wherein said stock market data set comprises data regarding comprising futures.